been found in the district of Kalahandi.

(c) In kalahandi district 79 mining leases have been granted for mining of different minerals. At present limestone, graphite, quartz and felspar are being mined. Besides, exploratory mining of Gemstones has been taken up by the Orissa Mining Corporation, a State Government Undertaking.

GEM Stone Deposit in Kalahandi District of Orissa

452. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the heavy deposits of Gem stones in various parts of Kalahnadi District of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the varieties so far identified; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to exploit these precious resources?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHANGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Sporadic occurrences of some precious and semi-precious Gemstones have been found in the district of Kalahandi.

(b) The gemstones so far identified are aquamarine, diamond, emerald, iolite, chrysoberyl, sapphire, ruby, corundum, ziroon, topaz, garnet, etc.

(c) (I) An UNDP-aided Project for exploration and development of Gemstone resources in the State of Orissa has been sanctioned for implementation.

(II) The Government of Orissa have entrusted the work of collectioon, exploration and exploitation of precious and semi-precious stones to Orissa Mining Corporation, a State Government Undertaking.

(HI) Specific gemstone bearing areas have been identified and reserved by the Government of Orissa for exploitation by Public Sector Undertaking.

(IV) Orissa Mining Corporation has taken steps for obtaining mining leases for systematic and expeditious exploitation of the minerals.

(V) Orissa Mining Corporation has formed a joint venture in collaboration with two private parties with a view to obtaining necessary expertise in exploitation of gemstones.

(VI) Orissa Mining Corporation has already taken up exploratory mining of Gemstones.

Show Cause Notice Issued to M/S. Traders Private Limited

453. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 221 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd February, 1989 and state:

(a) whether M/s. Traders Pvt. Ltd. have since completed their reply to the show cause notice;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) to (c) M/s. Traders Private Limited in their reply to the show cause notice have challenged the legality of the show cause notice proceedings .initiated against them. They have also denied the allegations.

Proceedings initiated against them will be finalised after giving them the necessary opportunity of a personal hearing.